



Meeting Notes  
January 9, 2006  
6:00pm-7:45 PM  
Boston Public Library  
65 Warren Street

**RSMPOC Members Present:** Norman Stembridge, Daniel Richardson, Joe Cefalo, Reginald Jackson, Marilyn Lynch, Michael Miles, Donovan Walker, Public-25 plus

**Welcome:** Norman Stembridge, OC vice-chair called the meeting to order. He welcomed the community and informed the audience that this meeting would be focusing on the Bartlett Yard Site.

**Old Business:**

-Minutes from the 12/5/05 meeting were neither approved nor reviewed as the OC lacked enough attendees for an official vote. The meetings will be reviewed at the 2/6/06 meeting.

-Norman (OC) also wanted to call attention to the ongoing attendance issue for OC members and reminded everyone that three consecutive absences would result in dismissal from the OC.

**Community Meetings:**

-The meeting then shifted to the discussion of the Community Workshops being held on January 28<sup>th</sup> and February 13 at the Shelburne Community Center.

-John D. from the BRA began the BRA presentation on preparation for these two meetings. He emphasized that the BRA, RSMPOC, and the MBTA would be working with the community on the development of the Bartlett site. John then ran through the handout regarding a draft overview of the timeline that will result in an RFP for the site.

-John also explained how the BRA developed a community survey intended to explore the community's feelings on development of the site. It is the BRA's intention to get it out to as many members of the community and encourage participation. The survey will be mailed, emailed, and handed out as a flyer to surrounding residents. There will also be localized survey drops at various sites.

-Donovan (OC) and other OC members suggested a number of other "drop-off" sites be included. They were Warren Gardens, the Marksdale Development, St Joe's, Washington Commons, Mt Pleasant Apartments, and the elderly housing nearby.

-There was also discussion over when the 1/28/06 meeting would start. It was agreed that it would be 9-12 with breakfast being served.

-Daniel Richardson (OC) also emphasized neighborhood church participation. He also brought up survey questions regarding to housing affordability and ownership. This prompted a brief debate concerning questions 8, 9, and 10.

-Audience question: Charles J- felt that making sure the community was a legitimate presence in this entire planning process. He also looked for youth benefits and programs in any development plan.

-John (BRA) began to discuss the specifics of the first workshop and informed the OC as per earlier suggestion, the BRA would like an OC member to work with each community discussion group. This prompted several questions regarding the overall discussion topics and should there be greater emphasis on issues of density? It became apparent that there were many questions around topics and overall presentation. Donovan (OC) asked for an explanation of “sustainability”.

-As a result of the OC questions, John decided to re-present the overall info on the site from an earlier meeting.

-Audience Question: Charles J: We need to ensure overall diversity in the community.

-Donovan (OC) asked about two high rise examples in the presentation. John (BRA) replied that the two sites were more examples to indicate scale than anything else. This also prompted a brief discussion of Tent City.

-In a return to discussing the 1/28/06 meeting John suggested that there would be anywhere from 50-80 attendees and suggested 5-6 small discussion groups. John also explained the aspects of the three suggested topics.

-In the discussion about sustainability and quality of life, Donovan (OC) felt that this is also a discussion of issues like shopping, elderly nee. He stressed the need to extensively explain the topics to participants.

-Audience Member: We need to make sure that these plans benefit current residents and foremost.

-Joe C (OC) suggested that each group discuss all the pertinent topics and Donovan made the point that all topics were interconnected. For example density will affect transportation issues.

-Michael M (OC) asked about the intent of question 11 and suggested that people are given examples of what “big box” and “regional retail” mean.

-The survey will be put on a community website as well the BRA website.

-The following OC members volunteered to help with facilitation: Donovan, Joe, Daniel, Michael, Reggie, and Norman. A prep meeting will be held on January 17<sup>th</sup> and a location to be determined from 6-8. An email reminder will be sent out.

-Audience Question: Will there be “community benefits” for churches? John D (OC) indicated that this could be discussed at a later point in the RFP process.

-Audience Question: Can the sidewalk be shoveled in front of the Bartlett site? Mark Boyle from the MBTA stressed that it would be taken care of. Keith Williams will also follow up.

-The meeting was then adjourned.